

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-11

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-08 DLOS-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO COMDT COGARD WASHDC

INFO COMLANTAREA COGARD NY NY PRIORITY

CCGD FIVE PORTSMOUTH VA PRIORITY

USDOC PRIORITY

CGDONE BOSTON

CCGDTHREE NY

NMFS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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COMMERCE PASS NMFS GLOUCESTER MA PRIORITY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SP, US, XN, ICNAF

SUBJECT: SPANISH FISHERY OFF US COAST: PROBABLE
VIOLATION OF ICNAF QUOTAS FOR 1974

REF: MADRID 4845

CARACAS FOR LOS DEL, COPENHAGEN FOR FISHATT

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1. U.S. STATISTICS COMPILED BY NMFS SHOW WITH HIGH CONFI-

DENCE LEVEL THAT SPANISH FISHING VESSELS HAVE EXCEEDED THEIR AGREED 1974 QUOTAS UNDER ICNAF, FOR SUBAREAS FIVE AND SIX, FOR SPECIES QUOTAS AS WELL AS OVERALL SECOND TIER QUOTA.

2. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT (GOS) IN SEVERAL STRONG DIPLOMATIC PRESENTATIONS. GOS HOWEVER HAS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OVER ACCURACY OF STATISTICS AND GREAT RELUCTANCE TO DIRECT ANY CESSATION OF FISHING BASED ON WHAT THEY VIEW AS A PROBABLY BIASED SAMPLE OF CATCH INFO.

3. NMFS STATISTICS WERE COMPUTED FROM INPUTS WHICH INCLUDE USCG PATROL VESSEL AND AIRCRAFT SIGHTINGS OF SPANISH F/Vs, INFO CONTAINED ON ICNAF INSPECTION REPORTS OF BOARDINGS, AND HISTORICAL TREND DATA OF SEVERAL VARIETIES. OBVIOUSLY THE COMPUTED CATCH FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES SINCE NOT ALL SPANISH FISHING VESSELS HAVE BEEN BOARDED AND ONLY A FEW HAVE BEEN BOARDED MORE THAN ONCE.

4. DIFFERENTIAL CATCH INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM REPEAT BOARDINGS WOULD INCREASE ACCURACY OF LEVEL-OF-EFFORT AND FISHING EFFICIENCY FACTORS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OVERALL CATCH COMPUTATIONS.

5. COAST GUARD IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO INCREASE LEVEL OF SURVEILLANCE AND ICNAF BOARDINGS OF SPANISH FISHING FLEET IN SUBAREAS FIVE AND SIX WITH AS NEAR TO DAILY BOARDING OF ALL SPANISH F/Vs AS IS REASONABLY ATTAINABLE. ICNAF BOARDING OFFICERS SHOULD ADVISE F/V MASTERS, IF QUESTION IS RAISED, THAT PURPOSE OF REPEAT BOARDINGS IS TO GATHER DIFFERENTIAL CATCH STATISTICS ON DAILY BASIS.

6. ALL SPANISH FISHING VESSELS SHOULD BE CHECKED CLOSELY ON EACH BOARDING TO INSURE THAT COMPLETE BY-CATCH AND TOTAL CATCH DISPOSITION RECORDS ARE BEING MAINTAINED ACCURATELY AND PROMPTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICNAF REGS. VIOLATIONS SHOULD BE CITED ON EACH BOARDING WHERE OBSERVED.

7. F/Vs IN COD FISHERY SHOULD BE CHECKED CLOSELY ON EACH BOARDING FOR POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF ICNAF HADDOCK EXEMPTION LIMITATION AND ICNAF MESH REGS AND VIOLATIONS CITED EACH TIME OBSERVED.

8. ADDITIONALLY, IT APPEARS THAT PERHAPS FIVE SOVIET TRAWLERS OF THE SRTK CLASS ENGAGED IN THE SQUID FISHERY MAY BE UNDER CONTRACT TO A SPANISH COMPANY IN LAS PALMAS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SRTK 1366, MONCHEGORSK, AND SRTK 1367, MARSHANSK, HAVE BEEN SO REPORTED. IF LOCATED, THESE VESSELS SHOULD BE BOARDED UNDER ICNAF RULES AND INFO SOLICITED ON CATCH AND CONTRACT PROVISIONS. REPEAT BOARDINGS ARE NOT DESIRED AT THIS TIME. PRELIMINARY FEELING IS THAT SUCH CATCHES WOULD BE CHARGED AGAINST SPANISH QUOTA, BUT CONTRACT PROVISIONS MIGHT AFFECT DECISION.

9. THIS INCREASED SURVEILLANCE AND BOARDING PROGRAM IS

INTENDED TO CONTINUE UNTIL GOS SATISFIED WITH STATISTICAL
INFO AND/OR SPANISH FISHING VESSELS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM
SUBAREAS FIVE AND SIX.

10. PLEASE MAKE SECSTATE INFO ADDEE ON BOARDING MESSAGE
TRAFFIC AND SIGHTREPS. KISSINGER

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